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Letter dated 28 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. for the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué regarding Somalia issued by the meeting of the Ministerial Committee regarding Somalia, held at Khartoum on 22 June 2006 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council, in accordance with article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Salma **Elfeki**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 28 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. for the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Communiqué issued by the meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Somalia

Khartoum, 22 June 2006

In the context of implementing resolution No. 345 on support for Somalia, adopted on 29 March 2006 at the Summit of the League of Arab States in Khartoum, and at the initiative and kind invitation of the President of the Republic of the Sudan, Chairman of the current session of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States, the Ministerial Committee of the League of Arab States tasked with following up the situation in Somalia met under the chairmanship of President Omer Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan. President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed of the Somali Republic and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States attended the meeting, in which ministers and representatives of the member States participated.

The Committee conducted intensive consultations with the Somali Government and the Islamic Courts Union, leading to agreement concerning a number of elements that can be built on in order to create common ground.

Under the auspices of the Ministerial Committee on Somalia and with its participation, the first dialogue session was held between the two parties, who affirmed their determination to achieve a settlement that preserves Somalia's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and enables Somalis to rebuild State institutions and start the reconstruction process.

In that regard, the following principles were agreed:

1. To recognize the legitimacy of the current Somali Transitional Government;
2. To recognize the Islamic Courts Union;
3. To continue dialogue and talks without preconditions in a framework of mutual recognition;
4. To bring war criminals to justice;
5. To remain committed to the cessation of media and military campaigns;
6. To issue a joint call for peace;
7. To place dialogue on pending security and political issues on the agenda of forthcoming sessions and examine the possibility of forming technical committees to discuss and make proposals on such issues.

It was agreed that the next round of talks should continue in Khartoum on 15 July 2006.

The Committee appealed to the international community to provide rapid assistance to the Somali people and affirmed the determination of Arab States to contribute effectively to the restoration of security and stability, participate in the reconstruction efforts and call for the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance.

The Committee thanked the Republic of the Sudan for its initiative in convening the Committee on Somalia and for hosting its meetings.